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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,981	09/25/2003	Phuc Ky Do	RPS920030089US1	8869
47052	7590	07/18/2006	EXAMINER	
SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP PO BOX 51418 PALO ALTO, CA 94303			PARK, ILWOO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2182	

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/671,981	Applicant(s) DO ET AL	
	Examiner Ilwoo Park	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 5, 10, and 14 are amended in response to the last office action. The following rejections now apply. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination

In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 5/4/2006, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

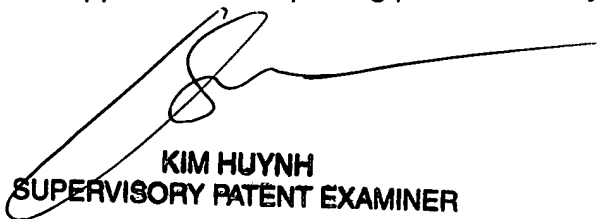
To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

Kim N. Huynh


KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

2. Claims 1, 5, 10, and 14 are amended in response to the last office action. The following rejections now apply. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al., US patent No. 6,668,376 B1.

As to claim 1, Wang et al teach a method [col. 3, lines 24-40] for automatically determining a configuration of an I/O connector panel [e.g., motherboard of computer 1 having a plurality of connectors for connecting a plurality of peripheral devices in col. 1, lines 13-16], the method comprising:

providing information [URL database associated with peripheral device identification data in col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 4] about the capabilities [peripheral device identification data including a model, a type, and/or a description of the peripheral device to be attached to a connector; fig. 2; col. 4, lines 30-60] of the I/O connector panel to a memory [URL database 13 in fig. 2] within the I/O connector panel;

examining [col. 5, lines 1-6] the information in the memory; and

downloading [col. 5, lines 6-15] at least one driver to a system [operating system in col. 1, lines 25-27] coupled to the I/O connector panel based upon the examined information.

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5. As to claim 3, Wang et al teach the downloading step is provided by software that is independent of the type of I/O connector panel [col. 5, lines 6-15].

6. As to claims 4 and 7, Wang et al teach the system includes a core PC function block [CPU 10 in fig. 2].

7. As to claim 5, Wang et al teach an I/O connector panel [e.g., motherboard of computer 1 having a plurality of connectors for connecting a plurality of peripheral devices in col. 1, lines 13-16] comprising:

a plurality of I/O connectors [col. 1, lines 13-16]; and

a memory [URL database 13 in fig. 2] containing information [URL database associated with peripheral device identification data in col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 4] about the capabilities [peripheral device identification data including a model, a type, and/or a description of the peripheral device to be attached to a connector; fig. 2; col. 4, lines 30-60] of the I/O connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined [col. 5, lines 1-6], at least one driver can be downloaded [col. 5, lines 6-15] to a system [operating system in col. 1, lines 25-27] coupled to the I/O connector panel.

8. As to claims 8 and 12, Wang et al teach connector logic coupled to the memory for I/O distribution [fig. 2].

9. As to claims 9 and 13, Wang et al teach the memory contains attributes of the I/O connector panel and attributes of each connector installed on the connector panel [col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 4].

10. As to claim 10, Wang et al teach a processing system comprising:

a core PC function [function of CPU 10 in fig. 2]; and

at least one I/O connector panel [e.g., motherboard of computer 1 having a plurality of connectors for connecting a plurality of peripheral devices in col. 1, lines 13-16] coupled to the core PC function, the at least one I/O connector panel comprising: a plurality of I/O connectors [col. 1, lines 13-16] and a memory [URL database 13 in fig. 2] containing information [URL database associated with peripheral device identification data in col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 4] about the capabilities [peripheral device identification data including a model, a type, and/or a description of the peripheral device to be attached to a connector; fig. 2; col. 4, lines 30-60] of the I/O connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined [col. 5, lines 1-6], at least one driver can be downloaded [col. 5, lines 6-15] to a system [operating system in col. 1, lines 25-27] coupled to the I/O connector panel.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 2, 6, 11, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al., US patent No. 6,668,376 B1 in view of Shinohara et al., Japanese Laid-open patent No. 2001-117835.

As to claim 14, Wang et al teach a processing system comprising:

a core PC function [function of CPU 10 in fig. 2]; and

a plurality of I/O connector panels [e.g., motherboard of computer 1 having a panel for network interface cards, a panel for display cards, a panel for a printer, a scanner, etc. having a plurality of connectors in col. 1, lines 13-16] coupled to the core PC function, each of the plurality of I/O connector panels comprising a plurality of I/O connectors [col. 1, lines 13-16], a memory containing information [URL database 13 in fig. 2, col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 4] about the capabilities [peripheral device identification data including a model, a type, and/or a description of the peripheral device to be attached to a connector; fig. 2; col. 4, lines 30-60] of the I/O connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined [col. 5, lines 1-6], at least one driver can be downloaded [col. 5, lines 6-15] to a system [operating system in col. 1, lines 25-27] coupled to the I/O connector panel, and connector logic coupled to the memory for I/O distribution.

Wang et al teach the memory storing a URL database indicating a location of a device driver to be downloaded. However, Wang et al do not explicitly disclose the memory is in the form of EEROM. Shinohara et al teach a memory in the form of EEROM [flash ROM 118] storing a URL indicating a location of a device driver to be downloaded. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include memory in the form of EEROM in order to increase flexibility to easily adapt adds or changes of the URL database of manufacturers of peripheral devices.

13. As to claims 2, 6, and 11, Shinohara et al teach a memory in the form of EEROM.

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14. As to claim 15, Wang et al teach the memory contains attributes of the I/O connector panel and attributes of each connector installed on the connector panel [col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 4].

Conclusion

15. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

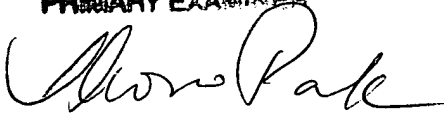
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ilwoo Park whose telephone number is (571) 272-4155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

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applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**ILWOO PARK
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ilwoo Park", written over the printed name.

Ilwoo Park

July 12, 2006